total number of samples drawn during the last two years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) As per Drugs and Cosmetics Rules each drug manufacturer is required to have his own testing laboratory. Available information with the Government reveals that there are 93 units in Maharashtra which do not have their own testing laboratories. These units have obtained stay orders in the Bombay High Court against the orders of the Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, Maharashtra, requiring them to provide Analytical laboratories.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules provide that for tests requiring sophisticated instrumentation techniques and other special tests, manufacturers can get their samples tested at private laboratories approved by the State Licensing authorities List of these approved testing laboratories, as available with this Ministry is annexed. (*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 126.)

(f) There are 4 Central Government laboratories in the country. The Central and State Government laboratories do not test samples sent by the manufacturers. Only samples received from Drug Inspectors under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules, are tested by these Central and State Government laboratories.

**Study on K-Band Satellites**

2205. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Informatics Centre has prepared a feasibility study on K-band satellites, which will reduce the cost of setting up earth stations;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the extent to which this will be capable of serving the earth stations and by when the same is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A study on the possibility of using a special purpose K-band satellite for only data communication between computers has been initiated by the National Informatics Centre with the objective of examining technologies which can reduce the cost of setting up of earth stations in its network, NICNET. The study is in the preliminary stage.

(c) It is too early a stage to specify the capacity of the satellite. However, if found feasible and the cost of the project affordable, implementation is likely to be taken up during the 8th Five Year Plan period.

**Spreading of Malaria in various Districts of Orissa**

2206. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware of the spreading of Malaria in Koraput, Phulbani and Keonjhar districts of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to eradicate malaria in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No report on spread of Malaria in Koraput, Phulbani and Keonjhar districts of Orissa has been